

REMARKS

1. Summary of the Office Action

In the Office Action mailed January 19, 2011, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 8, 11-13, 17-19, and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by US Patent Pub. No. 2004/0030601 (Pond). The Examiner objected to claims 29, 30, and 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

2. Status of the Claims

Currently pending are independent claims 1, 7, and 18. Applicant has canceled claims 5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-17, 19-20, and 22-31 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims future application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 18 as follows.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 29.

Applicant has amended claim 7 to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 30.

Applicant has amended claim 18 to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 31.

No new matter has been added by way of any of these amendments.

3. Response to Claim Objections and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 29, 30, and 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As noted above, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 18 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 29, 30, and 31, respectively. These amendments are equivalent to those suggested by the Examiner in connection with claims 29, 30, and 31. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 7, and 18

are allowable.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing the subject matter of claims 29, 30, and 31.

4. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 8, 11-13, 17-19, and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Pond. As noted above, claims 1, 7, and 18 are allowable in view of the respective amendments to those claims. Claims 5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-17, 19-20, and 22-28 have been canceled, rendering the rejections to these claims moot. Further, Applicant does not concede any of the Examiner's specific assertions with regard to any of the canceled claims or of the pre-amended versions of claims 1, 7, and 18.

5. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the remarks above, independent claims 1, 7, and 18 are allowable over the cited art of record.

If there are any matters that may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 15, 2011

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